



<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>

The Interior of the building Museumplein 19, now American Consulate General, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, as it was in the time of the original owner, Mr. Willem Frederik van Heukelom and his family.

A lot of U.S. Government offices overseas are housed in historic buildings. Did you ever wonder how that building that is now an embassy or consulate looked before it became that embassy or consulate? Here's an opportunity. The following pictures are from a publication that was found on a Dutch flea market on October 11, 2009. This publication was issued by the prestigious Dutch furniture maker "Onder Den St. Maarten" of Haarlem, The Netherlands in 1916. Onder Den St. Maarten had stores in Haarlem of course, but also in Rotterdam, The Hague and in Amsterdam. Architect J.A. Pool (pronounced Pohl) designed for this firm, the interior of a villa a rich entrepreneur by the name of Van Heukelom, had built by architects Schill and Haverkamp, on a corner of the Museumplein in Amsterdam.

The pictures offer a unique view of what was then called a 'modern' Dutch interior. It shows lush carpets, lavish hardwood paneling, no doubt from the Dutch colonies in Asia or South America. It shows fabulous inlaid parquet floors and expensive Chippendale style furniture made in Holland by the Onder Den St. Maarten factory. Also shown is a glimpse of the Van Heukelom 16th century China collection, one of the best of its kind back then. This is how well-to-do Holland lived back in the early 20th century.

Enjoy the pictures!

All pictures are from:

Moderne Hollandsche Interieurs (Modern Dutch Interiors), by architect J.A. Pool, published by furnituemaker "Onder Den St. Maarten" of Haarlem, The Netherlands, through publisher Dr. Gustav Schüler, Bussum, 1916/1917



Plaat 5. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Bovenzaal, Chippendale stijlmeubelen.

The Hall or Landing on the first floor. All the hardwood paneling and doors are still there today.



Plaat 36. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Hal.

Another view of the Landing on the first floor. The door on the far right of the hall will take you to the next view.



Plaat 7. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Ontvangkamer, Chippendalestijl.

This was once the Van Heukelom reception room. Today it is the Consulate's conference room. We can see part of Mr. Van Heukelom's Chinese porcelain collection in a Chippendale display case on the right.



Plaat 6. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Ontvangkamer.

Again the reception room, now conference room. The white marble fireplace is really just for show as the building had central heating, even then. The fireplace is still there today.



Plaat 8. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Ontvangkamer, Chippendalestijl.

The same corner of the reception room with the curtains closed, allowing us a closer look at what sure were Mrs. Van Heukelom's knick-knacks on the coffee table.



Plaat 10. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Serre-boudoir, Sheratonstijl.

The left side of the bay window on the first floor. Behind the sliding door on the left is the dining room, now the Consul General's office.



Plaat 9. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

De foto is gemaakt door de heer J. J. van der Vliet. Serre-boudoir, Sheratonstijl.

The photographer also snapped the right side of the bay window. Again behind the sliding door, this time on the right is the dining room. The paneling covering the central heating radiators is still there today.

Now we go up one floor, to possibly the bedroom of Mrs. Van Heukelom, now the Consul's office. Note the phone or intercom appliance on the wall next to the bed. Rembemer, this was in 1916!



Plaat 14. Villa, Museumplein Amsterdam.

Slaapkamer.



Plaat 13. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Slaapkamer.

Another view of the same bedroom.



Plaat 16. Villa, Museumplein, Amsterdam.

Slaapkamer.

The beautiful built in cabinet is still there, though the mirrors have gone, as has the wash stand. But it is wonderful to see the inside of the building that we work in every day, as it was in the days of the original inhabitants.

Sadly these are all the pictures available. If more turn up they will be posted on this website.

Frank de Koning
Consular Assistant



<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>